

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 PM-07 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 ACDA-19 SAM-01 SAJ-01 PRS-01 IO-14

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R 041913Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0190
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01876

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: GW, MILI, PFOR
SUBJECT: LEBER-GALLEY DISCUSSIONS JANUARY 17-18

REF: BONN 01777

SUMMARY: MOD SOURCES RECENTLY FILLED US IN ON DEFMIN
LEBER'S MEETINGS WITH GALLEY JANUARY 17-18. AS REPORTED
IN REFTEL, LEBER'S VISIT WAS CORDIAL BUT SEEMS NOT TO
HAVE PRODUCED ANYTHING NEW IN FRG/FRENCH RELATIONS. AT-
MOSPHERICS WERE GOOD AND BOTH SIDES DISPLAYED GENERAL
UNDERSTANDING FOR ONE ANOTHER'S VIEWS. END SUMMARY.

1. BRIG. GEN. BRANDT (PLANS AND OPERATIONS) AND
STUETZLE (LEBER'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT) TOLD US THAT
LEBER'S TALKS WITH GALLEY WENT SMOOTHLY AND THE VISIT
WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL. AS IN THE PAST IT WAS CLEAR TO
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THE GERMANS THAT GALLEY IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS

THE BROAD ISSUES OF FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY; SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN FRENCH SECURITY OR DEFENSE POLICIES WILL BE MADE BY JOUBERT. THE FRG SIDE GOT THE IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT GALLEY WOULD LIKE TO MOVE TOWARD CLOSER FRENCH/NATO RELATIONS BUT HIS RESPONSIBILITIES ARE GENERALLY LIMITED TO MORE PURELY MILITARY MATTERS. HOWEVER, GALLEY POINTEDLY RULED OUT ANY REINTEGRATION OF FRENCH FORCES INTO NATO BUT DID NOT CLOSE THE DOOR TO CLOSER FRG/FRENCH MILITARY COOPERATION IN THE CONVENTIONAL FIELD.

2. BOTH BRANDT AND STUETZLE SAID THE GERMANS WERE MUCH IMPRESSED WITH THE FRENCH NUCLEAR MISSILE FORCE IN THE SENSE IT SHOWED THE MAGNITUDE OF THE FRENCH ACHIEVEMENT IN CONSTRUCTING UNAIDED A SMALL BUT EFFICIENT DETERRENT. THEY SAID THE FRENCH MISSILE FORCE DID NOT NECESSARILY CONVINCE THE LEGER PARTY OF ITS OVERALL DETERRENT VALUE, BUT THE GERMANS LEFT CONVINCED THE FRENCH NUCLEAR PROGRAM IS TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED OVER THE UK'S. THIS JUDGMENT WAS OFF-THE-CUFF AND NOT BASED ON EXTENSIVE TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE OF EITHER THE UK OR FRENCH NUCLEAR FORCES.

3. STUETZLE SAID THAT WHILE A STRATEGIC POLICY WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN DETAIL, HE FOUND FRENCH OFFICIALS AMBIVALENT TOWARD THE SALT I AGREEMENT. THEY CRITICIZED IT AS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF US WILLINGNESS TO REACH AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIETS OVER THE HEADS OF THE EUROPEANS, BUT THEY RECOGNIZED THAT THE AGREEMENT STRENGTHENED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THEIR MISSILE FORCE AND WOULD LIKELY EXTEND ITS LIFETIME. A FEW FRENCH OFFICIALS CLAIMED ON AN UNOFFICIAL BASIS THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NEED 500 REPEAT 500 MEGATONS TO KNOCK OUT ALL THE FRENCH SILOS. THIS WOULD, HOWEVER, RESULT IN SO MUCH FALLOUT ON SOVIET TERRITORY THAT THE SOVIETS

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WOULD NEVER RISK AN ATTACK.

4. MANY OF THE GERMAN PARTY CONCLUDED THE FRENCH ARE DEVELOPING THEIR FORCE MORE FOR ITS POLITICAL IMPORTANCE AND EFFECT IN ANY FUTURE EUROPEAN DEFENSE ORGANIZATION THAN FOR DETERRENCE OR ACTUAL DEFENSE OF FRENCH TERRITORY. STUETZLE IN PARTICULAR THOUGHT THE FRENCH WANTED TO BUILD A NUCLEAR MISSILE FORCE TO ASSURE THEMSELVES OF A LEADING ROLE IN ANY FUTURE EUROPEAN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS. OTHERS IN THE GERMAN PARTY CONCLUDED THAT EVENTUALLY THE FRENCH WOULD DEVOTE ALMOST ALL OF THEIR DEFENSE BUDGET TO THEIR NUCLEAR FORCE. (SEE MINISTER LEBER'S COMMENTS SEPTEL.) THE FRENCH DID NOT, HOWEVER, GIVE EVIDENCE THEY HAVE A CLEAR CONCEPTION ABOUT THE SHAPE A EUROPEAN DEFENSE GROUP MIGHT TAKE.

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5. THE CONVERSATIONS WERE, IN THE GERMANS VIEW, FRIENDLIER AND MORE USEFUL THAN THOSE OF LAST YEAR. THE FRENCH SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN KEEPING US TROOPS IN EUROPE AT THEIR CURRENT LEVEL. HOWEVER, WHEN SPECIFIC ISSUES WERE TOUCHED UPON, THE FRENCH SHOWED NO INTEREST IN TAKING PART IN BURDENSARING EFFORTS OR IN TAKING STEPS WHICH COULD HEAD OFF PRESSURE FOR UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS IN THE US CONGRESS.

HILLENBRAND

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